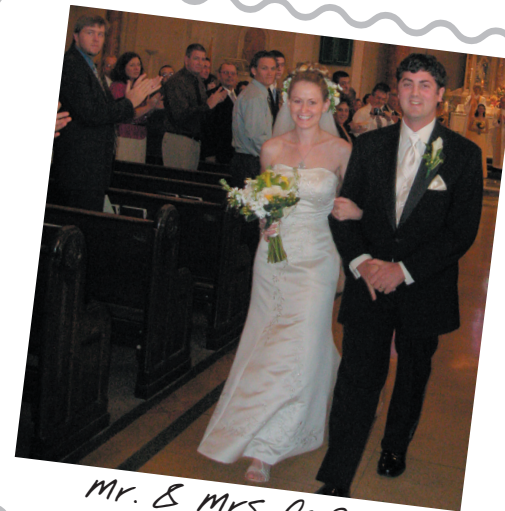




**"Bear one another's burdens. . ."** ~Galations 6:2



# Thank You!!!!!!



*Mr. & Mrs. Cooper*

It was a long journey, and the road we traveled was one of great difficulty—a path of harsh realities that life unexpectedly threw our way. It began in March 2006, when Bill was diagnosed with a brain stem tumor. The tumor was in such a critical area that every doctor refused to touch it. Time and again we were told that surgery was impossible due to high risk of stroke, paralysis, or death, but, without it, Bill's time was limited. Over the next few months, Bill underwent two brain surgeries to drain cysts growing off the tumor, but both efforts only bought Bill more time. He then endured eight months of chemotherapy to try to shrink the tumor. In November 2007, the tumor had begun to hemorrhage. Bill's time was now extremely limited. Surgery number three was Bill's last chance for removal of the tumor—his last chance for life. Bill was given an adequate amount of opportunities not to follow through with the surgery, but instead faced his odds head-on with extreme courage and bravery and opted to follow through with the procedure. After a tedious, nine-hour surgery, Bill awoke with little deficit and with most of the tumor removed. The voyage ended that November, and Bill has moved forward with his life. He recently married his fiancée, Lauren Palmer, this October of 2008—a dream that, to both of them, seemed inevitably impossible just a few months ago, but became a reality thanks to the prayers of our family, friends, community, and people whom we do not know.

Yes, it has been a long journey, but we have finally reached our destination. Sometimes we steered. When we couldn't, others took the wheel. Thank you to those people. To those crowds who traveled the long way to support us in hospital waiting rooms, who started prayer groups, who said and attended masses on Bill's behalf, who sent meals, cards, and phone calls, and to those who

struggled to find the right words but couldn't; opting instead to give silent support, quietly making their presence known. All of the prayers and positive energy have made the difference and truly mean everything to us. The power of your prayers led us to the right doctor and a miracle was performed through his hands that day. Thank you to our unwavering family who has been there from the beginning experiencing these unpleasant times with us every step of the way, for without you we would be in a dark place. A special thank you to the following:

To Lauren Palmer Cooper, for without your unfaltering courage, strength and commitment, Bill would not be here. We are extremely blessed and thankful to have you in our lives and a part of our family. To John Davis, benefit organizer, a man is not measured by the amount of trophies he has, but with the dignity by which he stands. We are eternally grateful for your loyalty and friendship. As they were not covered by insurance, Bill's surgeries would not have been possible without your hard work and commitment and the generosity of those who followed you. To the Greater Wildwood community: you have consistently risen to the occasion to support and comfort the sick and struggling families who are proud to call this island their home and honored to call you their neighbors. Facing fatal odds, one can be inspired to overcome any obstacle, knowing that their battle will not be one of desperate isolation, but of collective optimism, fueled by the unified strength of a determined and compassionate community.

Our journey was long, and although we value the destination, the road we traveled is the most meaningful part of the ride—it was what we went through to get here—to this time of celebration. It is the powerful life lessons we learned along the way that will carry with us, and the new people that have entered our lives and made lasting handprints on our hearts. It is a reminder to slow down and enjoy the present, because life is the journey. It is, to us, about looking back on those times that weren't always easy and realizing how thankful we are for all of the blessings with which we have been gifted. We are thankful for all of you and extend a Happy Thanksgiving to all.

*"Remember George, no man is a failure who has friends."* ~CLARENCE ODBODY, ANGEL 2ND CLASS, "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE"

*Bill, Cecilia, Bill, Lauren, Brandon, Natalie, Joseph, and Trevor Cooper*

## Thank you to the following businesses, organizations, and individuals.

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 Steve Mainardi, Circus School  
 John Lynch, Wildwood Convention Center  
 North Wildwood Vol. Fire Company 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
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 Piro Pizza- Anthony Piro  
 Aversa Bakery- Steve D'Donato  
 J&J Distributors Delux Bakery- Jerry  
 Groffs Restaurant- Denise  
 Firehouse Tavern  
 Owens Pub  
 Shamrock Café  
 Michael's Bar & Grill  
 Harbor Inn, Tom Quinn  
 Juan Pablo's, JP Prime, Jon Paxton  
 Boardwalk Bar and Grill, Tom Salmons  
 Shakers Night Club  
 The City Night Club  
 Mulligan's Sports Bar  
 Montego Bay, Adam Youchak  
 Philadelphia Soul, Jon Bon Jovi  
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 ABS Sign Company  
 Gia's Restaurant  
 Kelly's Café  
 Westy's Café  
 AL&P Foods  
 Marie Nicoles Restaurant  
 Tony's Café  
 Tucker's Pub  
 Woody's Place  
 Alfe's Restaurant  
 Russo's Restaurant  
 Alumni Grill  
 Ravioli House  
 Lobster House Restaurant, Mark Ryan  
 Little Italy Restaurant  
 La Piazza Restaurant  
 Idaho Sweets  
 Buck's Tavern  
 Coastline Development  
 Ship N Shore Bar  
 Blockbuster Video  
 Wildwood Bowl  
 D'Angelis Restaurant  
 Mc Shaffry Masonary  
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J. Bryne Insurance Agency  
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 Wildwood Mayor Ernie Troiano  
 North Wildwood Mayor Bill Henfy  
 North Wildwood Police Chief Bob Matteucci  
 Wildwood Police Chief Joe Fisher  
 Wildwood Catholic High School  
 St Ann's Grade School, Sr. Sheila Murphy  
 The Sisters of St Joseph  
 Class of 75 & 76 Reunion Committee  
 Margaret Mace PTC  
 Antoinette Verna  
 Lisa Craven  
 Robert & Katie Davis  
 Shawn Toffoli  
 Kenneth Marzullo  
 Walter Larcombe Jr.  
 Kevin Celli  
 Joseph Murray Sr.  
 Monica Olsen  
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 Cape May County FOP Lodge #7  
 FMBA Local 50 Wildwood Fire  
 Cape May County PBA Local 59  
 Ocean City PBA Local 61  
 North Wildwood Republican Club  
 Knights of Columbus  
 Cape May County Police Officers Wives Assoc.  
 American Legion Wildwood  
 Emerald Society  
 Ladies of the Ancient Order of Hibernians  
 Cape Classics Motor Cycles, Mark D'Amico  
 Wildwood Civic Club Evening Membership  
 Greater Wildwood Elks Lodge # 1896  
 North Wildwood Beach Patrol

{To all the people that we may have missed, Your thoughts and efforts are deeply appreciated.}